



Rev. Dr. Rembert S. Truluck, Senior Pastor

LEARN THESE FACTS
ABOUT THE BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY

1. SEXUAL ORIENTATION IS NEVER MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE.
The understanding of homosexuality as sexual orientation did not exist a hundred years ago, much less in biblical times. Only in 1973 did the American medical and psychiatric professions recognize that homosexuality is an orientation and not a choice or an illness.
2. BIBLE LANGUAGES OF HEBREW AND GREEK HAVE NO WORD FOR HOMOSEXUAL. The word "homosexual" is made up of Greek *homo* ("the same") and Latin *sexualis* ("sex") and did not come into common use until less than a hundred years ago. The use of "homosexual" in any Bible translation is a mistake.
3. THE SIX BIBLE VERSES USED TO CONDEMN HOMOSEXUALS ARE TAKEN OUT OF THEIR CONTEXT AND INCORRECTLY TRANSLATED IN ORDER TO HURT PEOPLE NOT INTENDED IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT.
4. THREE OF THE VERSES, GENESIS 19:5, I CORINTHIANS 6:9 AND I TIMOTHY 1:10 ARE INCORRECTLY TRANSLATED TO CONDEMN HOMOSEXUALS. THREE PASSAGES, LEVITICUS 18:22, 20:13 AND ROMANS 1:26-27, ARE TAKEN OUT OF THEIR PROPER SETTING OF CONDEMNING IDOLATROUS RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND WRONGLY USED TO CONDEMN PEOPLE OF THE SAME SEX WHO LOVE EACH OTHER.
5. USE OF SCRIPTURE TO CONDEMN LESBIANS AND GAYS VIOLATES ALL ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC AND OBJECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF EXEGESIS AND INTERPRETATION AND IS ACADEMICALLY INDEFENSIBLE.
6. THE BIBLE IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES NEVER CONDEMNS HOMOSEXUAL ORIENTATION OR SAME SEX ROMANTIC LOVE AS SIN.
7. BIBLE TRANSLATORS AND PUBLISHERS WHO PERSIST IN USING EVIL HOMOPHOBIC "TRANSLATIONS FROM HELL" TO WOUND AND DESTROY LESBIANS AND GAYS MUST BE CHALLENGED AND STOPPED.
8. THE BIBLE NOWHERE SAYS THAT LESBIANS AND GAYS CAN OR SHOULD CHANGE THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. PROMISES TO CHANGE SEXUAL ORIENTATION ARE BASED ON FAULTY BIBLE INTERPRETATION AND FLAWED SCIENCE.
9. THE DISTORTION OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST INTO ATTACKS UPON GAYS AND LESBIANS FOR THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, WHICH IS GOD GIVEN, DEMANDS A CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE NOW.
10. THE BIBLE PERSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES GOD'S LOVE AND CARE FOR OUTCAST, MISUNDERSTOOD, REJECTED AND ALIENATED PEOPLE. THE TRUE GOSPEL IS THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE FOR LESBIANS, GAYS AND ALL PEOPLE ABUSED AND OPPRESSED BY RELIGION.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CHRISTIANITY AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Boswell, John. CHRISTIANITY, SOCIAL TOLERANCE, AND HOMOSEXUALITY: Gay People in Western Europe from the beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century. University of Chicago Press, 1980. The best academic study yet on the Bible and Homosexuality.

Scanzoni, Letha & Virginia Ramey Mollenkott. IS THE HOMOSEXUAL MY NEIGHBOR?: Another Christian View. Harper San Francisco, 1978. Recently revised. Easy to read and effective.

McNeill, John J. THE CHURCH AND THE HOMOSEXUAL, 1976 AND 1993, and TAKING A CHANCE ON GOD, 1988. Beacon Press. These two books by a gay former Jesuit Priest are the best done so far on spiritual issues related to homosexuality.

Perry, Troy. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD AND HE KNOWS I'M GAY, 1971 and 1987, Liberty Press, and DON'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE: The Story of Reverend Troy Perry and the Metropolitan Community Churches. St. Martin's Press, 1990. Tells the story of a gay Christian pastor's personal pilgrimage into self acceptance and freedom in Christ and tells how MCC began and the history of this Gay/Lesbian Christian denomination.

Shilts, Randy. AND THE BAND PLAYED ON: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic, 1987, and CONDUCT UNBECOMING: Lesbians and Gays in the U. S. Military, Vietnam to the Persian Gulf, 1993. Both by St. Martin's Press. Powerful and thorough.

Weinberg, Dr. George. SOCIETY AND THE HEALTHY HOMOSEXUAL. St. Martin's Press, 1972, 1983. Invented the term "homophobia."

Williams, Robert. JUST AS I AM: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BEING OUT, PROUD, AND CHRISTIAN. Crown Publishers, Inc., 1992. This personal story by the most famous gay Episcopal priest is moving and convincing. Includes extensive current bibliography. Robert died of AIDS a year ago.

See also books by John E. Fortunato, EMBRACING THE EXILE, and Chris Glaser, COME HOME and UNCOMMON CALLING. See "Homosexuality and Biology" by Chandler Burr in THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, March 1993, for excellent recent overview of medical research on the origins of sexual orientation.

Contact Chi Rho Press, PO Box 7864, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20898, phone (301) 670-1859, for current gay Christian books.

HOMOSEXUALITY

not a sickness



not a sin

GENDER ORIENTATION IN MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY

The American Psychiatric Association voted in 1973 to remove homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders and declared that "homosexuality implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities" and resolved that "the American Psychiatric Association deplores all public and private discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodations, and licensing, and declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity, or reliability shall be placed upon homosexuals greater than that imposed on any other persons and urges the enactment of civil rights legislation at the local, state, and federal level that would offer homosexual persons the same protections now guaranteed to others on the basis of race, creed, color, etc."

The American Medical Association and the American Bar Association agreed in 1973 with this position of the American Psychiatric Association and added their approval of The Model Penal Code of the American Law Institute recommendation to legislators "that private sexual behavior between consenting adults should be removed from the list of crimes and thereby legalized." The American Psychological Association in 1975 also approved these declarations and "urged all mental health professions to take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness that has long been associated with homosexual orientations."

JESUS REQUIRED NO CHANGE IN SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The Bible gives no basis for the attempts to change homosexuals into heterosexuals by conversion or through religious and psychological conditioning. We have yet a lot to learn about the origins of homosexuality and other gender orientation experiences. Science goes on in search of answers to questions and giving new insights into human behavior. This process of science in seeking new truth is unending. Science to remain scientific must always be open to new information. The search for truth is never over. Jesus has been viewed by believers as the one unchanging and dependable guide to God and to the full and meaningful life.

Following Jesus is a personal, individual and flexible experience. No two people are alike, and no two people experience Jesus Christ in exactly the same way. Each person meets God in Christ in the way that fits the individual. Trying to impose a uniform experience on all believers is to deny respect for personal integrity and the unique worth of each individual.

PRACTICAL RESOURCES

Money, John. *Gay, Straight, and In-Between: The Sexology of Erotic Orientation*. New York; Oxford University Press, 1988. John Money of Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, is the leading authority in research into biological and genetic sources of sexual orientation. This brief book gives a summary of his work.

A good recent overview of medical research on origins and causes of sexual orientation appeared in "Homosexuality and Biology" by Chandler Burr in *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1993. Ongoing research into causes of sexual orientation continues and is often out of date by the time a book can be researched, printed and distributed. Keep up with publications by the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association.

Eidson, Ted, editor. *The Aids Caregiver's Handbook*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988. This is a valuable practical guide, but like everything related to AIDS, new information is constantly being published. Your local AIDS services organizations can give up to date information and resources.

SOCIETY AND THE HEALTHY HOMOSEXUAL by Dr. George Weinberg was published by St. Martin's Press in 1972, 1983 and in a recent edition with some new material. Weinberg coined the term "homophobia," which is the title of the first chapter in the book. This is a very important book for you to read in order to understand the dynamics of homophobia among lesbians, gays, bisexuals and homosexuals. Weinberg, a clinical psychotherapist, did not consider any of his clients to be well unless they had dealt successfully with their own homophobia. This is the first book I know that viewed homophobia and not homosexuality as an illness,

THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, 5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, U.S.A., telephone (213) 464-5100, can give current information about AIDS resources and services.